



HB 5095: Preventing Animal Problems



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Michigan Humane Society

Michigan Humane Society

- Oldest and largest nonprofit humane organization in state
- Companion animal mission (pets)
- Independent, unaffiliated with any other local, state or national organization
- 3 shelters serve Detroit metro area
- Accepted 26,636 animals in 2013
- Investigate cruelty Detroit and statewide



*Chief Investigator Deborah MacDonald,
Michigan Humane Society*

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HB 5095: Three Components

- Register large-scale breeders
- Clear guidance for shelters on hold times for stray pets
- Clean up pet health certificates, etc.



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Large-scale Breeding Kennels

- Ensure all dogs in commercial settings receive adequate care
- Animal shelters and pet stores already regulated by MDARD
- Commercial breeders not currently regulated



*Purebred Chihuahuas at
Michigan Humane Society*

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Why Breeder Regulation?

- Consumers want to know breeding dogs raised in good conditions
- Large numbers of dogs in long-term confinement
- Potential for conditions to decline unseen and unknown
- Waiting until prosecutable as cruelty causes undue animal suffering and huge community expense



*Purebred Jack Russell Terriers in Missaukee County large-scale dog breeder kennel in 2013.
Photo credit: ASPCA*

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Michigan Cases: May 2014



Photo Credit: P. Sordyl

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Michigan Cases: Fowlerville



[7]

Michigan Cases: Fowlerville



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Michigan Cases: May 2013



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Michigan Cases: Missaukee



Photo Credit: ASPCA

- 169 dogs housed outdoors
- Puppies sold online to the public
- No state oversight
- Consumers never saw the dogs' living conditions

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Michigan Cases: Missaukee



Photo Credit: ASPCA

- Local humane society unprepared for case of this size
- Michigan Humane Society, ASPCA, Roscommon County Animal Control had to come in to assist

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Michigan Cases: Missaukee



Photo Credit: ASPCA

- Unacceptable conditions for dogs in ANY commercial setting
- HB5095 could have prevented this case
- It would have required this dog's breeder to register with MDARD and comply with existing animal care standards

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Michigan Cases: April 2012



Photo Credit: Fotos for Fidos

- 380+ purebred Shih Tzu and Pomeranian dogs and puppies seized from large-scale breeder
- Many were sick
- Crammed into small cages in rural home

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Michigan Cases: Allegan



Photo Credit: Fotos for Fidos

- Animals had lived in filth with coats matted with feces, rotted teeth & jaws, for years
- All dogs were eventually adopted after extensive medical cost and behavioral care

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Michigan Cases: Allegan



Photo Credit: Fotos for Fidos

- Allegan animal shelter overwhelmed
- WishBone Pet Rescue coordinated the care of 380+ dogs
- Assistance from community, local and national animal groups was required

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Michigan Cases: Allegan



Photo Credit: Fotos for Fidos

- Breeders convicted of animal cruelty and sentenced to jail
- Animal suffering and community expense could have been avoided

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2010 to 2013

MHS OUTREACH TO STAKEHOLDERS

[17]

2010 MHS Breeder Survey



- What do Michigan's breeders think?
- 129 Michigan breeders and fanciers responded to survey
- Gave input on care guidelines, definition of large-scale breeder

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MHS Outreach

- Michigan Veterinary Medical Association
- United Kennel Club
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Local kennel clubs, animal shelters, rescue groups, dog owners
- MDARD
- Michigan Association of Animal Control Officers
- Animal Law Section of the State Bar
- Puppy Mill Awareness of SE MI
- National humane organizations

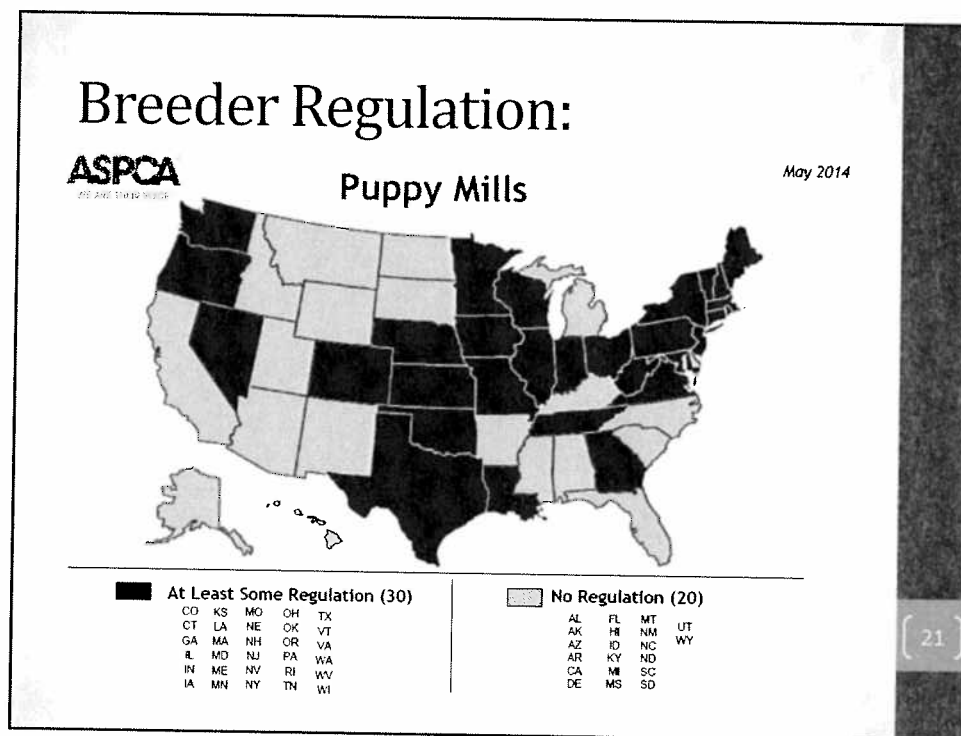
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Animal Shelters, Consumers are United:

- Oppose animal cruelty
- Recognize role of good breeders
- Value adequate care and housing for breeding dogs
- Regulation should focus on large-scale, not hobby breeders
- Prevent Michigan from becoming a "puppy mill" magnet



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Breeder Registration is FAIR

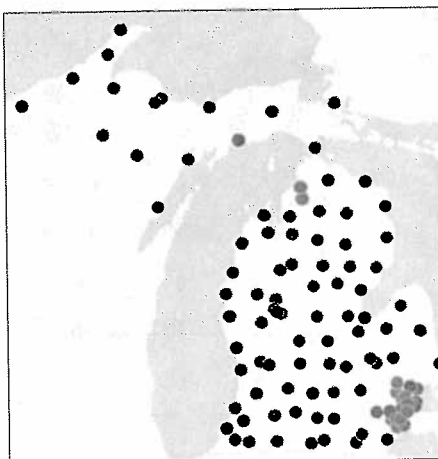
- Free registration (not licensure)
- NO new regulations: existing animal care regs can be used
- Complaint-based inspections by local animal control, MDARD
- Hobby breeders clearly not included
- Will prevent costly cruelty cases, saving communities money



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Stray Pets Holding by Shelters

- 193 registered shelters in Michigan
- 113 house strays (59%)
- Many private shelters are housing strays
- MHS took in 11,619 stray pets last year
- MHS took in more Detroit strays than City of Detroit Animal Control last year



Map of shelters housing strays: www.mpaw.org

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Holding Time Unclear

- Current law has insufficient guidance on holding times for stray pets
- Only reference to hold times is in animal research law that deals with transfer to Class B Dealers (PA 287.388)



Humane Society of Livingston County, Howell

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Goals of HB 5095

- Define in statute what holding time should be
- Take into account current science
- Produce positive impact on animal health and lives saved in shelters



Almost Home Animal Shelter, Quinnesec

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Process

- MDARD working group to resolve issue
- Included municipal and non-profit shelters, shelter veterinarians, animal control, rescue groups, MDARD
- Recommendations based on science, best practices



Dr. Baer, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

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Solutions for Problems

- Clear definition of “day”:
24 hours assuming
available for reclaim
- Seven day hold for ALL
animals with TRACEABLE
identification
- Mandatory microchip
scanning
- Four day minimum hold
for stray dogs without ID
- Two day minimum hold
for stray cats without ID



Copper Country Humane Society in Houghton

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Cats are Different than Dogs

- Michigan shelters
now holding more
cats than dogs
- 105,110 cats versus
92,934 dogs in 2011
- 2.8% reclaim rate for
lost cats in Michigan
- Cats seldom have ID
and owners not
looking



St. Clair County Animal Shelter in Port Huron

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Population Health

- Cats in shelters undergo significant stress
- Many harbor contagious diseases
- Longer hold times = more sickness
- Current research shows shorter hold times saves more cats in shelters



Shelter cats with upper respiratory infections.

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HB 5095: Helping Animals, Shelters, Communities in Michigan

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